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REMARKS

In this amendment, no claims are added and no claims are canceled. Therefore, upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-53 will remain pending.

I. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-47 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,097,948 to Siödin (hereinafter, "Siödin"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The subject matter described herein relates to a particular type of screening of signaling messages where messages are identified as candidates for MAP screening based on one or more SCCP parameters in the messages. If a message is identified as a candidate for MAP screening, then MAP screening is performed. If a message is not identified as a candidate for MAP screening, the message is routed and MAP screening is bypassed. Independent claim 1 and 21 have each been amended to recite that it is first determined whether or not a message is a candidate for MAP screening based on the SCCP information in the message. If the message is identified as a candidate for MAP screening, then MAP screening is performed based on the MAP information in the message. If the message is not a candidate for MAP screening, MAP screening is bypassed. Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 21 appears, for example, in Figure 5, steps ST6 through ST15, and on page 9, line 17 through page 10, line 28 of the present specification. Identifying messages as candidates for MAP screening and bypassing MAP screening if the messages are not

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candidates for MAP screening avoids unnecessary decoding of the TCAP and MAP portion of the message, which can be processor-intensive.

There is absolutely no teaching or suggestion in Sjodin of a method or a system that identifies signaling messages as candidates for MAP screening based on SCCP parameters in the message and that bypasses MAP screening if a message is not identified as candidate for MAP screening. According to Sjodin, firewalls 71 screen signaling messages based on TCAP information in the signaling messages. In all of the screening examples disclosed in Sjodin, the TCAP portion of a message is first decoded. For example, in the message flow in Figures 9 and 10 of Sjodin, it is first determined whether a message is an invoke request before further parameters are screened. Such screening requires decoding of the TCAP message to identify the message as an invoke request. If the message is identified as an invoke request, in step 91 of Figure 9, it is determined whether the operation be requested as an allowed operation. As illustrated in Figure 15 of Sjodin, determining whether an operation is allowed includes decoding MAP parameters, such as location update parameters, in the messages. Similarly, in Figures 11, 12, and 13, all screening performed by Sjodin begins with the TCAP information which requires decoding of the TCAP and MAP portions of the message. As stated above, decoding the MAP portion of the message for all signaling messages can be processor-intensive. Independent claims 1 and 21 recite identifying messages as candidates for MAP screening before performing MAP screening. If a message is identified as a non-candidate for MAP screening based on SCCP information in the message, MAP screening is bypassed. There is absolutely

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no teaching or suggestion in Siödin of bypassing MAP screening. Accordingly, Siödin fails to teach the invention as claimed in independent claims 1 and 21 or their respective dependent claims. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1 through 47 as unpatentable over Siödin should be withdrawn.

Claims 48-53 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Siödin in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0029189 to Titus et al. (hereinafter, "Titus"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 48 has been amended similarly to independent claims 1 and 21 to recite that the SCCP screening module identifies messages as candidates for MAP screening. For messages that are candidates for MAP screening, the SCCP screening module passes these messages to the MAP screening module. For messages that are not identified as candidates for MAP screening, the SCCP screening module forwards the messages for outbound routing in a manner that bypasses MAP screening. As described above, Siödin fails to teach or suggest a system that identifies messages as a candidates for MAP screening based on SCCP information. Rather, Siödin begins all screening with decoding the TCAP and MAP portions of the message. Titus likewise fails to teach or suggest identifying messages as candidates for MAP screening based on SCCP information in the messages. Titus is directed to a prepaid short messaging system that counts short messages, performs tariffing for the messages, determines whether subscribers have sufficient account balances to perform short messaging, and delivers the messages in response to determining that sufficient account balances exist. There is absolutely no teaching or

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suggestion of any pre-screening being performed at the SCCP level, not to mention performing such screening to identify messages as candidates for MAP screening. Accordingly, the combination of Siödin and Titus fails to teach the invention claimed in independent claim 48. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 48-53 as unpatentable over Siödin in view of Titus should now be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in proper condition for allowance, and an early notice to such effect is earnestly solicited.

If any small matter should remain outstanding after the Patent Examiner has had an opportunity to review the above Remarks, the Patent Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned patent attorney in order to resolve these matters and avoid the issuance of another Official Action.

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DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

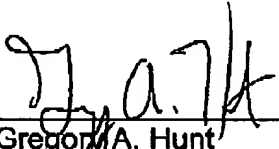
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with the filing of this correspondence to Deposit Account No. 50-0426.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: June 6, 2005

By: _____


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